

This is your Bill of Rights. It is 179 years old. It is being killed.

ARTICLE I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, ❶ or of the press ❷; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, ❸ and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, ❹ against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, ❺ except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty,

or property, without due process of law ❻; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, ❷ by an impartial jury ❸ of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense. ❹

ARTICLE VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, ❿ nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. ⓫

ARTICLE IX

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

- ❶ Freedom of speech is infringed by the Federal "anti-riot" act which resulted in the Chicago and Seattle conspiracy trials.
- ❷ Freedom of the press is eroded when the press, radio and television are sharply attacked — and served with subpoenas — by public officials when in fact they were only exercising their proper functions.
- ❸ Freedom to assemble peaceably is violated when students who attempt to assemble to express their dissent are shot down as at Kent State, Jackson State, and Orangeburg.
- ❹ The right of citizens to be secure in their persons, houses, and papers disappears when the "no-knock" bill is enacted in Wash-

- ington, D.C. and threatens to spread to the rest of the country.
- ❺ The right not to answer for capital crimes except upon indictment by a grand jury is vitiated when grand juries feel free to act vindictively, as in the indictments at Kent State.
- ❻ The right not to be deprived of "life, liberty, and property" without due process of law is violated by legislation which allows preventive detention.
- ❼ The words "speedy trial" have become a tragic joke. Thousands and thousands of men and women languish in jail waiting for a trial.
- ❽ The right to trial by an impartial jury is put into question when

- it is difficult for the young, the black, the brown, and the poor to find a jury of their peers.
- ❾ The right of an accused to secure counsel is betrayed by the shameful lack of adequate facilities for the proper defense of the poor.
- ❿ The right not to be burdened with excessive bail is increasingly violated, particularly for black people, and for people whose political beliefs are unpopular.
- ⓫ The right not to be inflicted cruel and unusual punishment is mocked when people must serve their sentences in prisons as inhuman as the Tombs, or Soledad, or Arkansas State.

These violations of the Constitution are not isolated instances. They represent a dangerous trend toward repression and neglect of rights, for which the present administration bears a major responsibility. It can only be stopped by organization among an aroused citizenry. It is time for people to band together.

In recent months, the following people have formed The Committee for Public Justice in the belief that this country had entered one of its recurring periods of dangerous political repression. We are working to set up an early-warning system against the invasions of our freedoms. Prominent lawyers, writers, artists, scientists and business executives throughout the country have joined us.

We will make our own investigations. We will work with other national groups to form a broadly-based coalition to defend rights, and we invite them to collaborate with us to take action now.

From the Executive Council of the Committee for Public Justice:

Roger Wilkins, *Chairman*; Blair Clark, *Treasurer*; Ramsey Clark; Robert Coles; Norman Dorsen; Lillian Hellman; Burke Marshall; Robert B. Silvers; Telford Taylor; Jerome Wiesner; Harold Willens

We will expose, if convinced of the justice of our research. We will speak and write and directly challenge the government whenever we believe it necessary.

We need money. And we need it from those who agree that these are dangerous days. Large money is fine, but we will probably never get it. Small money can amount to large money. If you want to support the principles of this ad, help reproduce it in other papers, and contribute to the work of the Committee for Public Justice, we ask you to send us whatever you can.

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